Excise and Customs duties on Small and Cottage Industries

5411. SHRI O. P. KOHLI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether new excise duties amounting to Rs. 2106 crore have been levied on small and cottage industries in 1994-95 Budget;

(b) whether exemption in the customs duties amounting to Rs. 2981 crore has been granted and exemptions in excise duties to the extent of Rs. 2000 crore has been given on the goods manufactured by the big industrial units;

(c) whether as a result of that the small and cottage industries will not be able to withstand competition with the foreign goods as well as the goods manufactured by the big industrial units;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to withdraw the imposition of new excise duties on the small and cottage industries; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and (b) No, sir, the revenue implications relate to all the proposals made in 1994-95 Budget with regard to central excise and customs duties.

(c) The small scale and cottage industries would not be adversely affected by the 1994-95 Budget changes. Such units are generally eligible to the exemption under the SSI exemption scheme in terms of which no duty is required to be paid on clearances upto Rs. 30 lakhs in a financial year. For further clearances upto Rs. 75 lakhs certain excise duty concessions have been provided in the SSI units.

(d) and (e) Do not arise, in view of (c) above.

Recruitment of Ex-servicemen in LIC

5412. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a serious protest has been raised by Ex-servicemen Asociation against the recruitment process adopted by LIC for the post of Assistant for Dehradun Division;

(b) whether it is a fact that the LIC earlier appointed 9 Ex-servicemen out of 60 vacancies advertised but did not increase their proportional representation in the additional 60 vacancies filled up for the post;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for ignoring the remaining candidates of the Ex-servicemen category on the plea that they retired after December, 1992 though they were called for written test as well as for interview;

(d) whether Government propose to fill up 14.5 percent posts reserved for Ex-servicemen, as prescribed for the said post in immediate future; if so, by when; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. For filling up 60 vacancies of Assistants the Dehradun Divisional Office of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LICI) was required to prepare a panel of 120 candidates which should have included 17 Ex-servicemen. For this purpose, 110 Ex-servicemen were sponsored by the Zilla Sainik Board. 28 of them were qualified for the interview after appearing in the written test. Under the eligibility norms of the LICI, ultimately only 10 were found suitable for appointment and only 9 joined the service of the LICI. The Ex-servicemen who were denied appointment by the LICI on account of their being still in service of the Armed Forces have filed a case in the court of Civil Judge, Dehradun and the matter is subjudice. The court has directed the LICI to keep the number of vacancies that can be filled in according to the reservation rules but have not actually been filled in to be kept unfilled. As the court has specifically directed the LICI to keep the vacancies pending, no action can be taken by the LICI to fill in these vacancies.

Borrowing by P. S. Us. to Finance their plans

5413. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have permitted